

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the aforementioned final Office Action dated January 24, 2008. By this communication, several of the claims are amended. A Request for Continued Examination is filed concurrently herewith. Claims 1-21 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Moro* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0095605) in view of *So* (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,419) and further in view of *Mishima* (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,031). Claims 6, 13, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Moro* in view of *So* and further in view of *Shiohara* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0122935). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

To explain the significance of the foregoing amendments, a discussion of a preferred disclosed embodiment will be helpful. However, the claimed invention is not limited to the preferred disclosed embodiments. Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate different modes of operation of the same embodiment. Fig. 3 illustrates the operation when it has been determined that the input data is data including a small amount of information. Fig. 4 illustrates the operation when it has been determined that the input data is data including a large amount of information.

In the Fig. 3 operation, the data goes from the input 2 to the working memory 5 (arrow 1), to the compressing/expanding controlling portion 7 (arrow 2), and then back to the working memory 5 (arrow 5). Then, it is subsequently sent to the printer (arrow 6). However, in the Fig. 4 operation, the data goes from the input 2 to the

working memory 5 (arrow 1), and *simultaneously* goes to the printer (arrow 2) and the compressing/expanding controlling portion 7 (arrow 3). The simultaneous transfer enables the printer to immediately start printing at least the first set of copies. See paragraphs [0065] through [0072]. For second and later sets of copies, the data moves from the file memory 6 (arrow 5) to the working memory 5 (arrow 6), and then on to the printer.

In order to clarify this in the pending claims, the claims have been amended to distinguish between the *input* data and the *compressed* data. And, the *simultaneous* transfer has also been emphasized. Thus, e.g., claim 1 recites that wherein, in cases where it is discriminated by said data discrimination portion that said input data-to-be-output is data including a large amount of information, said transfer controller transfers said input data-to-be-output to at least some of said plurality of compressing/expanding devices while simultaneously transferring said input data-to-be-outputted to said output portion.

Applicants submit that the combinations as now set forth in each of the claims, including the simultaneous transfer, is not taught or suggested by the applied prior art.


Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submits that claims 1-21 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants requests a favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event the instant application can be placed in even better form, Applicants requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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